Fourth Review Conference
of the Parties to the Treaty
on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE REVIEW OF THE NPT's OPERATION

Working Paper submitted by Bangladesh

I. Peaceful nuclear co-operation under Article IV.

II. Modalities of peaceful co-operation to make the NPT attractive.

III. Supportive back-up mechanism.

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Peaceful nuclear co-operation including technology transfer is an obligation in terms of Article IV of the NPT. The Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the NPT stressed the need of such technology transfer and promotion of co-operation between the States Parties in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. IAEA General Assembly resolution 439 of 1984 calls upon the IAEA, in accordance with Article XI of the Statute, to provide, upon request, assistance in securing financing from outside sources for nuclear power projects in developing countries and in particular the least developed countries and this was reiterated in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference. Technology transfer in the nuclear field can contribute to the elimination of existing technological and economic gaps between the developed and the developing countries.

The potential benefits of peaceful application of nuclear energy, however, did not reach developing countries members of NPT. There is a growing view that some incentives should be accorded to the NPT developing countries and these incentives could make NPT more attractive to other non-NPT member countries. The incentives could take the following modalities:

(a) Some economic incentives should be provided to the NPT member developing countries. For example, the projects in energy or non-energy area of these countries could have priority for consideration by the World Bank/UNDP/IAEA/other United Nations agencies.

(b) Nuclear co-operation on non-energy, i.e., nuclear application on food and agriculture, human health, industry, research and development, physical and chemical sciences, etc., could be given priority to the NPT member developing countries.

To support a nuclear power reactor of today's average size, a country needs a sizable electrical grid, experience with handling complex energy systems, and back-up sources of electricity if unforeseen circumstances force a shut-down. These conditions are not met today in many developing countries particularly in the least developed countries. For this reason it is essential that NPT developing countries particularly LDCs are given support to develop their energy systems on a broad basis, i.e., in the energy area in general. This will prepare the ground for their realizing the full benefits of nuclear energy in the further course of their development. IAEA, therefore, could be mandated to explore the possibility of strengthening the support base and back-up for establishing the peaceful nuclear energy programme.